

Message Text

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S/S - MR. BRIDGES
S:DLSPIEGEL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080364

ATHENS ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD AND LEDSKY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY

1. THIS TELEGRAM IS BASED UPON AN UNCLEARED MEMCON AND IS
SUBJE" T TO REVISION.

2. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL, AT HIS REQUEST, MET WITH
SECRETARY APRIL 8 BEFORE RETURNING TO ANKARA APRIL 9 FOR
WEEK OR TEN DAYS ON CONSULTATION. COUNSELOR-DESIGNATE
NIMETZ AND EWING (EUR/SE) ALSO PRESENT.

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3. ESENBEL SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO STRESS IMPORT-
ANCE TO GOT OF US-TURKEY DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT.
DURING THE TURKISH ELECTION CAMPAIGN THERE WOULD PROBABLY
BE ATTACKS ON DEMIREL FOR SIGNING AN AGREEMENT WHICH COULD
NOT BE IMPLEMENTED. IN ADDITION, TURKISH MILITARY WERE
ALSO BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED BECAUSE OF THE INTER-
RUPTION OF SUPPLIES, ALTHOUGH IT WAS HELPFUL THAT THE F-4

PROBLEM HAD BEEN PARTIALLY SOLVED, AT LEAST THROUGH JUNE. SECRETARY NOTED HE HAD BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED RE F-4 PROBLEM. ESENBEL NOTED THAT HE WAS AWARE IN GENERAL TERMS OF CLIFFORD MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS, BUT WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHEN THEY WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC.

4. SECRETARY SAID CLIFFORD HAD MADE REPORT TO PRESIDENT AND THAT DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE AND ANNOUNCED ABOUT APRIL 18 WHEN CONGRESS RETURNS FROM CURRENT RECESS. SUCH DECISIONS WOULD PROBABLY INCLUDE BOTH FY 1978 MILITARY AID FIGURES AND ADMINISTRATION ENDORSEMENT IN PRINCIPLE OF TURKISH DCA.

5. ESENBEL EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ENDORSEMENT LANGUAGE WOULD BE STRONG AS POSSIBLE AND WOULD GIVE SOME INDICATION OF TIMING, HOPEFULLY SUGGESTING THAT CONGRESS TAKE UP DCA AFTER 1978 SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION WAS ENACTED. SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT GIVE ANY UNDERTAKINGS ABOUT THE LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD BE USED NOR ANY PRECISE IDEA RE TIMING.

6. ESENBEL DESCRIBED TO SECRETARY A ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS HE HAS RECENTLY HAD WITH CONGRESS WHICH MADE HIM CONFIDENT THAT PROSPECTS FOR FAVORABLE ACTION ON TURKISH DCA HAD IMPROVED. SECRETARY RECALLED THAT HE HAD TOLD ESENBEL IN JANUARY THAT ADMINISTRATION WOULD TRY TO BUILD SUPPORT IN CONGRESS AND PAVE WAY FOR TIME WHEN DECISION COULD BE TAKEN MOVE FORWARD WITH DCA. HE THOUGHT PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING SUCH A CONSENSUS WAS BEING MADE. HE NOTED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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CAREFUL ATTENTION WAS BEING PAID TO VIENNA CYPRUS TALKS AND MAY DISCUSSIONS IN NICOSIA.

7. ESENBEL SAID TURKISH CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR IN VIENNA HAD DONE HIS BEST BUT AFTER LOOKING AT THE GREEK CYPRIOT MAP PROPOSAL THEY COULD NOT HELP BUT WONDER WHETHER OTHER SIDE REALLY WANTED SETTLEMENT. SECRETARY NOTED THAT AT LEAST MAP WAS ON TABLE AND COULD BE DISCUSSED. IN HIS VIEW, TURKISH CYPRIOT CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSAL DID NOT APPEAR AS FORTHCOMING AS ONE MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED. ESENBEL SAID IT COULD BE "PERFECTED" BUT IN ANY EVENT "SUI GENERIS" FORMULATION WOULD BE NECESSARY GIVEN HISTORY AND PROBLEMS OF CYPRUS. SECRETARY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD PROBLEMS BUT OBVIOUSLY THERE WAS A WAY TO GO.

8. ESENBEL THEN REVERTED TO IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENED US-TURKEY MILITARY COOPERATION AND EXPRESSED HOPE GIVEN GREEK FOOT-DRAGGING TENDENCIES THAT ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT WAIT ON TURKISH DCA UNTIL IT COULD BRING BOTH DCAS TO

CONGRESS. SECRETARY TOOK NOTE OF WHAT ESENBEL HAD SAID.

9. SECRETARY ASKED RE STATUS OF AEGEAN TALKS. ESENBEL SAID GREEKS WERE INSISTING ON PROCEDURAL/LEGAL APPROACH TO WHAT TURKS FELT REQUIRED POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. SECRETARY ASKED IF IT WOULD DO ANY GOOD IF US ENCOURAGED GREEKS TO MAKE GREATER EFFORT REACH SETTLEMENT. ESENBEL REPLIED

THAT US SHOULD NOT COME FORWARD WITH ELEMENTS OF A SOLUTION BUT IT WOULD INDEED BE VERY USEFUL IF WE COULD ENCOURAGE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. NIMETZ NOTED THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF BERN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY AS TO WHETHER LEGAL EXPERTS HAD TO MEET BEFORE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS SHOULD MOVE AHEAD. SECRETARY SAID HE TENDED TO AGREE THAT AEGEAN QUESTIONS WERE PRIMARILY POLITICAL RATHER THAN LEGAL IN NATURE.

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10. IN RESPONSE TO ESENBEL'S QUESTION RE CYPRUS AND THE MOSCOW COMMUNIQUE, SECRETARY SAID SOVIETS HAD RAISED SUBJECT. HE HAD REPLIED THAT WE SUGGESTED FORUM OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL'S AUSPICES AND DID NOT THINK INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WAS GOOD IDEA AT THIS TIME.
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